# Saipan Tribune **CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER**

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#### **NMI-RP Ties**

The Commonwealth government yesterday recognized the contribution of Filipinos to the islands, with acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente proclaiming June 5-12, 2004 as Northern Mariana Islands-Philippines Friendship Week.

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#### **TDHC Donates**

The Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino recently donated some \$1,880.75 to the Tinian Junior & Senior High School to be used as seed money for the creation of a local My WAVE Club at the school.

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#### **History Lessons**

This past month the Writer's Workshop at Marianas High School, hosted by language arts teacher Tim Faska for his senior classes, had a special guest in the person of veteran educator and historian, Don Farrell

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# CUC begins power shedding

## Residential, commercial power users affected

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO REPORTER

he Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has asked all garment and hotel businesses to run their own generators daily to avert overloading the power plants on Saipan.

This comes soon after CUC began load-shedding Monday, resulting in island-wide power outages that affected schools, traffic lights, and businesses. Yesterday, Mount Carmel School let out its students ahead of schedule because of the outages, while traffic lights from

CUC total assets down in 2004

By LIBERTY DONES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. total assets declined by about \$5 million this year compared to last year.

From a total of \$166 million total assets in March 2003, the figure went down to \$161 million during the same

This was due mainly to the accu-



mulated depreciation of CUC's plants—electric, water, and sewer-which were valued at \$108.5

million in 2003. This year, they were valued at \$104.3 million.

In terms of restricted cash, CUC posted \$20.3 million in 2003 and \$18.4

See CUC TOTAL on Page 8

Susupe all the way to Middle Road and Beach Road stopped operations.

According to a CUC official, the utility company has to turn off power supplies at certain areas for a period of time to prevent the tripping off of operating power plants and before the generators reach full capacity.

The power shedding began Monday— Memorial Day-when CUC turned off the power supply to the southern portion of Saipan for two hours. CUC asked garment and hotel operators to turn on their generators to prepare for the outages.

"This came after CUC asked garment and hotel operators to go on line with the utility firm. But seems to be that CUC

See CUC BEGINS on Page 8



**BOUNTIFUL OFFERINGS** 

The Okinawa Tower was filled with various offerings from members of the Micronesia Repatriation Association, as well as other guests who took part in the 35th Peace Memorial Service held Monday at the Last Command Post in Marpi. Insets show MPA members praying after the incense offering.

## CNMI government owes Fund \$84M

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO REPORTER

The financial soundness of the NMI Retirement Fund came into question yesterday when records showed that it has an average monthly shortfall of \$436,064 and uncollected outstanding obligations from the CNMI government amounting to over \$84.4 million.

Annually, the Retirement Fund dis-

burses a total of \$51.274 million to pay out various vendors and consumers, which include \$39.2 million for retirement pensions: \$3.7 million for survivor payments: \$1.2 million for disability payments; \$3.4 million for refunds of contributions, and a total cost of administrative operations that amount to \$1.4 million.

The Retirement Fund also noted that the agency needs financial assistance for See CNMI on Page 8

## Shell hikes fuel prices anew

By JOHN RAVELO

Thirty-two-year-old Herbit Villagomez could not help but complain when he parked his newly acquired pickup truck to gas up early last night. This was soon after learning that Shell retail stations on Saipan would again raise gas prices by 3 cents a gallon midnight last night.

Villagomez, a resident of Upper Navy Hill, said that, due to the series of gas prices increases since the beginning of this year, he was forced to sell his sixcylinder pickup truck two months ago and had it replaced it with a more fuel-efficient four-cylinder vehicle.

Another motorist who requested anonymity also lamented the increas-

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## Local

## Benavente proclaims CNMI-RP Friendship Week

By JOHN RAVELO REPORTER

The Commonwealth government vesterday recognized the contribution of Filipinos to the islands, with acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente proclaiming June 5-12, 2004 as Northern Mariana Islands-Philippines Friendship Week.

Benavente rallied everyone in the CNMI to support the commemoration of the 106th anniversary of Philippine Independence on June 12.

Thousands of Filipino workers comprise a big chunk of the CNMI workforce. Earlier reports also cited historical ac-

counts that Filipinos formed part of the American forces when the latter liberated Saipan from the Japanese during World War II.

"The bonds of friendship existing among Chamorros, Carolinians and Filipinos are a product of our centuries-old shared history, customs and traditions as well as values arising out of our common religious inspiration," Benavente said.

"Just as our peoples benefited from centuries of contact with foreign visitors from all points of the compass, we have also reaped the fruits of our close kinship and understanding between our two Pacific island



Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente, center, is flanked by Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo, seated third from right, and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, seated third from left, as well as other Philippine Consulate General officials, staff, and personnel and members of different Philippine organizations in the CNMI during the proclamation signing ceremony held at the Nauru Building in Susupe.

communities and opportunities still abound for a rediscovery of these shared values," he said.

Benavente signed the proclamation yesterday morning at the Nauru Building in Susupe, where the Philippine Consulate's offices are housed.

Benavente also recognized the contribution of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans to community projects, besides

economic development.

The CNMI and U.S. governments had recently recognized the contribution of non-profit group MOVERan organization composed of Filipino workers—to environmental protection when it completed the cleanup of stormwater drainages on Saipan's western shores.

"I would like to recognize the eficial relations," he added.

important contribution of the Filipinos and those of Filipino ancestry to the socio-economic progress of the Commonwealth. And as an expression of our appreciation for those contributions, we extend our hands in a spirit of brotherhood and solidarity, of friendship and understanding to enhance our harmonious and mutually ben-

## \$1.2M scholarship available if...

Attention graduating high school students.

The Office of the Saipan Mayor, pursuant to Saipan Local Law 13-21, will be offering scholarships totaling about \$1.2 million, which according to Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, will "hopefully" be available for the start of the 2004 Fall term or semester.

The qualification is necessary as Tudela said the scholarship fund has yet to be provided.

"We are still really pushing for it," he said. "As long as we receive the money, we are still going to do it. Right now, there's no money available. It [\$1.2-million] is just on paper."

Tudela was not sure how much each student would receive if granted financial assistance.

In a letter to Sen. Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, Tudela said his office, along with the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board, have "applied due diligence and an ounce of ingenuity in managing to produce materials for review and publication by the Office of the Attorney General."

Tudela said the application draft, as well as memorandum of agreement, has been submitted to the Attorney General's Office and is subject to approval within 30 days of submission.

Tudela said upon approval

College scholarships now available The four-year Robert C. Byrd a college or university. The

college scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 per year are now available, according to Education Commissioner Rita Hocog Inos.

Inos said the applications have been distributed and are now available at high schools and at the PSS Federal Programs Office.

To be eligible for this fouryear college scholarship with an aggregate value of \$6,000, the student must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale tion, evidence of citizenship, and be a 2004 graduating senior from a public or private school transcript, Robert C. secondary school located in the CNMI, Inos said.

The applicant student must be a U.S. citizen or national residing in the CNMI and must be accepted or applied for enrollment at

applicant student must not be in default on any federal obligation and must register with Selective Service.

Inos said that PSS plans to award 10 of these four-year Robert C. Byrd college scholarships. She urges all qualified graduating seniors who plan on attending college to apply.

The deadline for submission of the applications with the required supporting documentation, which includes two letters of recommendaevidence of residency, high Byrd application and an essay, is Friday, June 25, 2004.

Applications are to be submitted directly to the PSS Federal Programs Office located on the third floor of the Retirement Fund Building.

from the Attorney General's Office, the draft would be translated into Carolinian and Chamorro languages by the Language Commission. From there, the scholarship applications will become available to the public.

The mission of the SHEFA is to provide supplementary financial assistance—upon avail-

ability of funds—to qualified residents of Saipan or abroad with the expectation of recipients returning to Saipan with the necessary and sufficient knowledge, skill, attitude, and work ethic to provide services on the island in the private sector, government, non-government organizations, as well as non-profit organizations.

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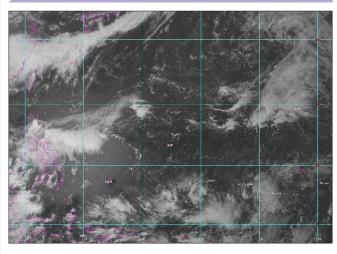
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## **WEATHER FORECAST**



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., JUNE 1, 2004

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergent wind flow is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms 90 miles either side of a line from 14n130e to 16n133e and south of Palau between 5n and the equator from 131e to 139e. A surface trough of low pressure stretching from 1n146e to 7n149eis generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just south of Chuuk between 7n and the equator from 142e to 157e. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers near Pohnpei and Kosrae between 8n and 1n from 158e to 165e and across portions of the Marshall Islands 60 miles either side of a line from 9n174e to 7n167e. An upper-level low centered near 26n160e is generating scattered showers near Wake Island within 150 miles either side of a line from 25n166e to 20n165e to 18n156e.



#### **SAIPAN AND TINIAN**

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. **Winds**: Light and variable winds. Highs near 87. Lows near 77.



#### **GUAM AND ROTA**

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. **Winds**: Light and variable winds. Highs near 87. Lows near 77.



#### **PALAU**

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Variable at less than 10 kt.

#### POHNPEI

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

Winds: East at 10-15 kt



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

showers.

Winds: Variable at less than 10 kt.

#### KOSRAE

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

kt. Winds: East at 10 kt.



Washington, DC

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: East at 10 kt.

MAJURO
Partly cloudy with isolated

showers. **Winds**: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

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	CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
4	Auckland	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	46F (8C)
禁	Beijing	Sunny	91F (33C)	64F (18C)
	Hong Kong	Thunder	90F (32C)	79F (26C)
44	Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87F (31C)	72F (22C)
4	London, England	Showers	66F (19C)	51F (11C)
44	Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80F (27C)	62F (17C)
	Manila	Thunder	93F (34C)	82F (28C)
44	Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	58F (14C)	42F (6C)
禁	Miami	Sunny	91F (33C)	76F (24C)
	New York City	Rain	70F (21C)	60F (16C)
禁	Osaka	Sunny	70F (21C)	55F (13C)
4	Paris	Showers	65F (18C)	49F (9C)
禁	Pusan	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
<b>P</b>	Rome	Cloudy	68F (20C)	51F (11C)
禁	Salem, Oregon	Sunny	74F (23C)	50F (10C)
禁	San Francisco	Sunny	67F (19C)	53F (12C)
禁	Seoul	Sunny	81F (27C)	60F (16C)
	Tokyo, Japan	Rain	68F (20C)	60F (16C)

Thunder

84F (29C) 64F (18C)

## Wiretap evidence junked

By JOHN RAVELO REPORTER

The Superior Court suppressed tape-recorded evidence obtained through wiretapping that was not sanctioned by a court warrant in connection with a drug case.

Ruling that the CNMI's Constitution affords greater protection against intrusion to privacy, Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama also junked the evidence because they were obtained without the consent of Jesus A. De-Leon Guerrero, the defendant.

DeLeon Guerrero, through lawyer Matthew T. Gregory, asked the court to suppress the evidence, citing the constitutional prohibition against "wiretapping, electronic eavesdropping or other comparable means of surveillance…except pursuant to a warrant."

"In this case, the government concedes that it did not have a warrant, so it seems on the surface that the government has no real grounds for opposing this motion to suppress," Lizama said.

The suppressed evidence consists of separately recorded conversations allegedly between DeLeon Guerrero and a confidential informant cooperating with the CNMI-Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force.

The first conversation was al-

legedly made through telephone, when the informant sought to purchase illegal drugs from the defendant, the court noted. Lawmen managed to record the conversation between the DeLeon Guerrero and the informant, whom they wired, during an alleged drug transaction

at the defendant's house.

Lizama noted, though, the insistence of the Attorney General's Office that the consent of one party, the informant, in the conversations exempt the surveillance work from the warrant requirement. The judge, however, disagreed with this.

Lizama noted that, while one-party consent is sufficient for a warrant exemption to conduct wiretapping and similar means of surveillance, the policy is only clear law in Ninth Circuit federal courts.

The AGO contended that 36 American states have statutes allowing wiretapped conversations with the consent of only one party, but Lizama noted that 13 other states have specifically required that all parties consent. Based on court records, the AGO argued that the majority rule should apply in the absence of a Commonwealth statute about the consent issue.

He also ruled against allowing as evidence the transcripts of the improperly recorded conversations.

## **Another investor eyeing Tinian golf course**

By LIBERTY DONES

REPORTER

After at least two investors tried but failed to build golf courses on Tinian, another one has come in to try its lot on the same project, according to the government.

Allen Perez of the Tinian Mayor's Office said that Marianas Resort Development Co. Inc. is planning to build an 18-hole golf course on the same venue that was identified earlier by previous investors, including the defunct Saipan University.

"This [MRDC] is the third investor that is interested to develop a golf course. We hope it materializes," said Perez.

Perez attended last week's meeting of the Marianas Public Lands Authority board in support of the latest investor's request to lease a public land on Tinian for the purpose.

About three years ago, MPLA approved in concept a proposal to build a golf course on the same location, as proposed by a Japanese company, Life Up Inc.

MPLA then was upbeat that

the proposed 18-hole golf course would do wonders for the islands' tourism industry.

For some reasons, however, the project was dropped, and another investor, a Korean, which began the Saipan University, entered and presented a plan to build a world-class golf course and university on the island, to be called Tinian University.

This plan was altogether dropped lately following discoveries of irregularities involving SU in its recruitment of students from China.

Earlier, the Tinian Legislative Delegation was looking at attracting fresh investments into the island through the development of a golf course, a retirement home, and another casino.

Once approved, these projects are targeted to be completed within three to five years.

The delegation said that another agreement is being drawn up to request the MRDC—a leaseholder of a huge piece of Tinian property—to release half of its land to MPLA for a homestead development project.

## Man nabbed for alleged threats to girl

By JOHN RAVELO

REPORTER

Lawmen arrested Monday a man who threatened to kill his former girlfriend through cellular phone text messages, acting promptly to avert the possible commission of another crime of passion.

Twenty-five-year-old Kenneth Isip was allegedly despondent due to his failed relationship with Maridel C. Gloria, who now has a new boyfriend, according to CNMI chief prosecutor David Hutton.

Police caught Isip Monday afternoon at Navy Hill, enforcing an arrest warrant issued by Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo. The judge initially imposed a \$750-bail on Isip.

Govendo issued the arrest warrant following the submission of an affidavit by police detective Elias Q. Saralu, affirming the probability that Isip could have committed the offenses of assault and disturbing the peace.

Based on Saralu's affidavit, Gloria received threatening text messages on her cellular phone, which apparently came from Isip. On Wednesday last week, Gloria was getting ready for work when she got a text message, the detective said.

"She looked at the message and she became scared because of what the message contained. She scrolled down the screen of her cellular phone to see who sent the message and the display showed her ex-boyfriend's cellular phone number," the investigator narrated.

Gloria claimed that Isip was

mad and threatened to kill her, the police affidavit stated. It further said that Gloria received other text messages from Isip, who allegedly threatened to kill the woman's new boyfriend and the latter's family on Guam.

Police said Gloria became more worried because her boyfriend's mother was sick, fearing that threatening messages or calls might exacerbate the latter's poor health condition. Isip allegedly also threatened Gloria's life by calling her at work.

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## **Opinion**

## Saipan Tribune

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### **EDITORIAL**

## **Veiled threats**

uring his first term as president of Russia, Vladimir Putin used his power, his popularity and his secret police connections to ensure that his political opposition would effectively cease to exist. In four years he managed to weaken the independent media, particularly the broadcast media; chip away at the fairness of the electoral process; and ensure that opposition parties no longer have any sway in the Russian parliament. During his annual state of the nation speech last week, the Russian president hinted that he may aim at a new target in his second term: the "nongovernmental organizations" human rights groups, charities and unions—that constitute the last remnants of the civil society that exploded into existence when Soviet totalitarianism disintegrated at the end of the 1980s. He accused them of ignoring "acute problems in the country" and said that instead they had focused on "getting financing from influential foreign and domestic foundations."

The president's intention is unclear. Some thought he was referring specifically to the charitable foundations that have been founded by some of Russia's wealthy businessmen, including Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the former CEO of the Yukos oil company, who is in jail awaiting trial after a highly political arrest. Others thought the threat could be interpreted by police across the country as encouragement to harass any group that agitates against the status quo, criticizes the government or accepts money from abroad.

Not that law enforcement officials need much encouragement: Complicated legal changes and tax rules long ago made it difficult for nongovernmental organizations in Russia to function. Groups ranging from Memorial, which investigates Soviet history and promotes human rights, to anti-nuclear and environmental advocates have found it increasingly difficult even to obtain the official registration documents they need to open bank accounts and rent office space. Some time ago members of the FSB, the descendants of the KGB, began low-level harassment of many academic and human rights groups that accept Western funding.

Sadly, none of this is likely to contribute much to the "safe, comfortable and stable life" that Putin said, elsewhere in his speech, he wished to achieve for Russians, nor will it help bring about the economic success he also says he wants. It is all very well for the Russian president to speak of economic liberalism, but the root problems of the Russian economy—corruption, nepotism and the habits of the former Soviet bureaucracy—will not be mitigated without greater openness and the raised public awareness that can come only from independent associations.

The Washington Post



## For these ads, the sky's no limit

By ANDREW POSTMAN

Special to The Washington Post

Dark, stark subway tunnels—the abyss we commuters stare into while thinking profound thoughts, or at least shallow thoughts that seem profound at the time—may soon be an obsolete pleasure. An innovative advertising firm called Submedia has been offering mass transit systems around the country a fairly simple technology that turns dingy tunnel walls into plush revenue centers. A series of metal boxes, installed side by side on a tunnel wall, contain backlit compressed images; when a train speeds past, the images appear to the passengers inside the train to move, like a child's flip book. Trials are underway in tunnels beneath Atlanta and New York, with more to come. Washington's Metrorail—a public transportation venue long proud of its largely schlock-free atmosphere—has become the latest system to approve tunnel advertising.

The significance of this new advertising forum will doubtless be misconstrued. You'll surely hear critics whining about how yet another line has been crossed, another sacrosanctuary destroyed. Is no place safe? ATM screens now hawk merchandise. So do elevators. TV monitors over the urinals at ESPN SportsZone busily brand the network while we relieve ourselves. If not for a brief spasm of alleged high-mindedness, the bases in major league baseball stadiums were to be tattooed with Spider-Man's likeness, to promote the movie sequel.

My problem with all this is different: I think we're not being nearly creative enough.

A few suggestions for new ad space to tap:

□ Clouds. Think about it: a bunch of powerful klieg lights and a projected image of a Chevy truck ... especially if the clouds are the puffy cumulus kind, shot through with late-afternoon sunlight. Who says the skies belong to the birds, or nature itself, or God, or all of us?

☐ Dreams. All that university time and money devoted to sleep research and we can't infiltrate dreams with product placements? The beauty part is that it benefits the dreamer at least as much as the

advertiser. How much more comforting would it be if Oscar Mayer and Dunkin' Donuts sponsored that recurring nightmare about the hot dogs chasing the donuts through the tunnel?

☐ Soles of shoes. We look at thousands every day—when strangers cross legs on the bus, at work, in group therapy. Are they not empty billboards yelling to be scrawled on?

□ Symphonic "rests." A long time ago, composers such as Beethoven and Mozart overused the "rest" symbol to indicate a short break between one musical phrase and the next. Whatever. I have to assume they had their reasons. But just because 100 members of your local Philharmonic are occupationally obligated to take these two- to five-second hiatuses doesn't mean the audience can't be treated to a crisply delivered pitch for Cingular's Nation FamilyTalk Plans package. Or that the fluegelhorn player, who's underworked anyway, can't quickly paraphrase a Pepsi jingle.

Then you go back to the Requiem. What is the problem?

□ Preschool nap time. Speaking of "rest"—there's at least 45 minutes where my son and his schoolmates, post-juice and snacks, justlie around on blankets, doing nothing. So some of them fall asleep. Most don't. Wouldn't this be a sweet time for them to hear, from some soothing CD, a lullaby about the latest American Girl or Bionicle? Are we barbarians to deny them this pleasure?

☐ Internal organs. Surgical tattooing is a safe, time-tested method of display—so why not a Nike swoosh on your kidney? Golden arches on your duodenum? Granted, there's a downside: No one, not even you, can see the advertising, at least while you're alive. The upside? If you donate your body to medical science, or if you're selected for an autopsy because of troubling circumstances surrounding your death, you'll leave a lasting impression on forensic scientists and especially medical students, a highly desirable demographic. Wouldn't it be wonderful, too, to know that dead people can still move product?

Postman, a writer in New York City, is willing to emblazon the windows of his home with holograms of Kraft cheese products, for a price

# Chalabi's long, costly charade

By ROBERT SCHEER

Special to the Los Angeles Times

an it get any more bizarre? Only a few weeks before Washington's long-promised hand-over of the keys to Iraq, we discover that the lackey the Pentagon only recently had in mind to manage this very valuable property for the United States is suspected by us of being a world-class con artist and, worse, a spy for America's enemies in Iran.

Nobody is speaking on the record yet, but U.S. intelligence officials are making it clear to a variety of pre-eminent news sources that Ahmad Chalabi, a longtime darling of the neoconservatives who dragged the United States into this war, not only fed Western intelligence sources false information about Saddam Hussein's Iraq but is accused of having passed on U.S. secrets to Iran, possibly through his security and intelligence chief, who is now a fugitive.

"This is a very, very serious charge," Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska said on Sunday, noting that his Senate Intelligence Committee will be investigating it. "There were a number of us who warned this administration about (Chalabi). . . . But the fact is, there were some in this administration, some in Congress who were quite taken with him."

We might start investigating which Bush official arranged for this hustler—already on the lam for a decade from major banking fraud convictions in Jordan—to sit behind first lady Laura Bush during this year's State of the Union speech. Was the Secret Service watching her purse?

Too harsh? Not by a long shot. The CIA had stopped using Chalabi as a source in the mid-1990s after his political organization of exiles was accused of deception and incompetence. However, over the last four years, Chalabi was shamelessly resurrected inside the Beltway by neoconservatives, including Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz, Douglas Feith and other Bush officials who were leading the campaign to invade Iraq.

Granted more than \$33 million in taxpayer money over that four-year period—funding that was cut off only days before Iraqi police backed by U.S. troops raided his home and office last week—Chalabi was the key window into Iraq for the White House, as well as top reporters such as The New York Times' Judith Miller. She mined him for a long string of now-discredited front-page scoops on Iraq's much-touted weapons of mass destruction. Chalabi is now suspected of having "gamed" the intelligence agencies of eight nations using phony or tricked-up sources and documents, according to intelligence sources cited in the Los Angeles Times.

Yet even as post-invasion searches and interrogations proved Chalabi's hoary claims completely wrong, and even as Chalabi continued his longtime practice of cozying up to the ayatollahs in Iran during frequent visits to Tehran, the Bush political appointees in charge ofIraq allowed Chalabi to run wild. Chalabi and his family and cronies have been granted control over Iraq's banking system and the crucial de-Baathification process, as well as the upcoming trial of Saddam Hussein. The result? At least seven Chalabi aides are wanted on charges of blackmail, fraud and other crimes.

So now we can watch a familiar drama unfold as the United States turns on a lout whom it tried to sell as Iraq's George Washington.

But being a wily survivor, Chalabi apparently decided that after embarrassing his Beltway backers so badly on the question of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and realizing that he was about as popular as the occupation itself, he had better make some new friends. Now he is playing the role of a populist Moses to President Bush's Pharaoh, chanting in Baghdad last week to "let my people go." He says his aides are innocent of spying for Iran but won't turn themselves in because "there is no justice in Iraq. There is Abu Ghraib prison."

So was Uncle Sam played for a sucker by Iran, the fulcrum of what the president has called the "axis of evil"? Was the United States maneuvered into unseating Iran's hated enemy, Saddam, whom Washington backed in the 1980s against Iran's holy warriors? We'll see as the scandal unfolds.

But even if this outrage proves true, it is unlikely that anyone high up will be held responsible for coddling Chalabi. After all, nobody of any stature has yet been held accountable for the missing weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the prison torture scandal or the poor planning for the occupation. Certainly not Bush, who is touring the nation bragging that the obvious disaster in Iraq is actually a great victory for the free world.

## The dimming of the Enlightenment

By FRANCIS WHEEN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

n 1922, just after his second term as president, Woodrow Wilson was asked for his thoughts on Darwinian theory.

"Of course, like every other man of intelligence and education, I do believe in organic evolution," he replied. "It surprises me that at this late date such questions should be raised."

Now imagine Wilson's downright astonishment had he been informed that in 2004, more than eight decades later, the state schools superintendent in Georgia would propose excising the word "evolution" from the biology curriculum.

There are few backers these days for the argument that we have reached "the end of history." However, a glance at some of the dominant ideas of the last couple of decades raises an even more startling possibility: that history, far from halting, has gone into reverse gear.

This may explain why so many of the case studies in Charles Mackay's classic 1841 history of human folly, "Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds," are reflected in the more recent episodes I've been studying.

The dot-com lunacy of the late 1990s, for instance, when companies with no discernible income achieved higher market valuations than big and well-established industrial corporations, was eerily reminiscent of previous investment manias such as the South Sea Bubble and the Dutch tulip craze, both of which were recounted at length by Mackay.

Mackay also mocked Nostradamus, observing with amused incredulity that this 16th century astrologer still had some followers in "the Walloon country of Belgium," among "old farmer-wives." Yet the self-same Nostradamus raced up the bestseller lists in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, and few if any of those 21st century readers could be classified as "old farmer-wives."

Charles Mackay's book is largely a history of the pre-Enlightenment—an age of witch hunts and holy relics, alchemy and geomancy. But we've grown out of that now, haven't we? Apparently not.

Over the last 25 years or so, after two centuries of gradual ascendancy, Enlightenment values of reason, secularism and scientific empiricism have come under fierce assault from a grotesquely incongruous coalition of radical deconstructionists and medieval flatearthers, New Age mystics and Old Testament fundamentalists.

The space vacated by notions of history and progress has been

colonized by cults, quackery, gurus, irrational panics, moral confusion and an epidemic of gibberish. A Gallup poll in 1993, for example, found that only 11 percent of Americans accepted the standard scientific account of evolution, whereas 47 percent maintained that "God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so." Another poll revealed that 49 percent of Americans believed in demonic possession, 36 percent in telepathy and 25 percent in astrology. It is as if the Enlightenment never happened.

There have been astonishing scientific advances in the last quarter-century, exemplified by the creation of the Internet and the mapping of the human genome. In spite of this—or, more likely, because of it—millions of Westerners now seek consolation from mumbo-jumbo merchants and snake-oil vendors.

Even British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who styles himself a modernizer and recites the mantra "education, education, education," has praised creationist teachers at a state-funded school in the north of England who seek to establish the Book of Genesis as the main biology textbook. Blair and his wife underwent a "rebirthing experience" while holidaying on the Mexican Riviera three years ago. "The Blairs were offered watermelon and papaya, then told to smear what they did not eat over each other's bodies along with mud from the Mayan jungle outside," the London Times reported. "Before leaving, the Blairs were told to scream out loud to signify the pain of rebirth."

Rational argument is increasingly obscured by a swirling fog of emotionalism and superstition—and, as Blair has proved, even the highest and mightiest are not immune. Remember Nancy Reagan's astrologer? Or President Clinton's brainstorming weekend with Hollywood mystic Marianne Williamson, self-styled "sacred psychologist" Jean Houston and management gurus Anthony Robbins and Stephen R. Covey?

The sleep of reason brings forth monsters. Some are manifestly sinister, others perhaps merely comical—harmless pastimes, as Nancy Reagan said of her reliance on horoscopes. Cumulatively, however, the proliferation of obscurant bunkum is a menace to the Enlightenment legacy bequeathed to America by Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. Where is H.L. Mencken when we need him?

Wheen is the author of "Idiot Proof: Deluded Celebrities, Irrational Power-Brokers, Media Morons and the Erosion of Common Sense" (Public Affairs, 2004).

#### **Letters to the Editor**

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

## Azmar mine on Pagan a good thing

I would like to respond to the recent letters concerning the proposed Azmar mining operation on Pagan. I am a former hardrock gold miner who has worked in both above ground, open pit and underground gold mines in the beautiful state of Nevada. I have also experienced life in a wonderful community, Wenatchee, WA., where a gold mine operated just outside of town. I was able to experience the positive political, social and economic influence the mining industry has in a community.

With that said, from my perspective as someone who has worked in the mining industry and as an environmentally concerned community member, I am very excited about the opportunities Azmar Corp. is presenting to the CNMI. We are being offered a chance for jobs, economic support and a relevant industry when we really need it. This is a long-term opportunity for the current and future work force.

In response to some concerns aired in the prior letters, allow me to offer my input:

1. Ken Moore doesn't have to be an experienced mine operator to make Pagan work. The owners in Nevada were not experts either. They, like what I'm sure Mr. Moore will do, will develop a team of mining experts to run the operation at a profit. He will generate critically needed jobs for those of us in the CNMI who can support the company mission. The need, most likely, will be for mine management personnel, mining engineers, equipment operators, general labor support, office and clerical staff to name a few.

- 2. Mining is one of the most highly regulated industries in the country. It is regulated by MSHA, the mining equivalent of OSHA for general industry. MSHA highly involves itself in all aspects of the mining operation from employee training to ensuring a company follows the myriad of safety and environmental rules regulating mining.
- 3. The environmental regulation for mining is very stringent and exacting. A mining company spends millions of dollars ensuring environmental impact is minimal if at all and often provides protection bonds up-front.
- 4. As for the immediate impact to the CNMI, local jobs and community support will be a godsend for us all in this difficult time. Not just the monies to the government but jobs and support to community events are usually substantial.
- 5. I understand permits have been issued for mining operations in the past. So why are we challenging Mr. Moore now when for all indications he can run a quality and profitable mining operation that will be a huge, direct benefit for the CNMI?

In closing, if Azmar, and Ken Moore, is willing to provide this wonderful opportunity to the CNMI, I feel we should accept this chance with open arms and embrace this future and not reject it. I know when the mining permit is issued and the job openings are posted, I will the first in line hoping for an interview.

#### **Rob Erickson**

CNMI resident



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### 60th Anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian schedule

#### Thursday, June 17

AMMA memorabilia sales tables open 10am-3pm at Hyatt Hotel 7:30am-5pm AMMA sales tables open at Victoria

Hotel Banquet Hall

8:30am-4:30pm AMMA memorabilia sales tables open

at Dai Ichi

Red Cross canteen informal seminars: 9am featuring William Stewart with selected topics such as the "Anatahan story,"

"excerpts from a Japanese soldier's diary," and "An analysis of the Japanese defense of Saipan."

9 - 11:30am VFW second business session

11:30am Dr. Worley 11:30 - 1pm VFW lunch break

1 - 4pm VFW second business session contin-

3pm Dr. Worley

VFW Hospitality Room (Post 3457) 4-8pm 6pm Chautauqua "President Truman" hosts

a community forum

630-830pm VFW installation and awards banquet

#### Friday, June 18

Dr. Worley: radio interview on kzmi fm, 8am

media cente

8:30am-12pm AMMA memorabilia sales tables open

at Dai Ichi Hotel lobby

9 - 11am VFW incoming council of administra-

tion meeting

Dr. Worley: interviews with video crews, 10am

#### **CUC TOTAL**

From Page 7

million in 2004. Restricted cash refers to contract payments, security deposits, advances from grantor agency, and escrow fund for a contractor.

CUC's current assets, which include available cash, receivables, inventory for fuel, materials, and supplies increased to \$38.4 million this year from \$37.2 million last year.

Meantime, CUC's total liabilities increased this year to \$166.5 million from \$162 million last year.

This includes current liabilities set at \$159.8 million this year from \$154 million last year and a long-term debt of \$6.7 million this year from \$8 million last year.

Current liabilities include accounts payable to vendors, Office of Public Auditor, accrued liabilities, debt with grantor agency, loans with the Commonwealth Development Authority and related interests.

CUC said that it has been in default of the repayment of four notes to CDA totaling about \$61.6 million, plus related accrued interests totaling about \$81.2 million.

Likewise, CUC has two long-term debts totaling \$7.2 million: \$7.002 million with Telesource for a 10-megawatt power plant on Tinian and a \$203,000 debt with the U.S.

ing capital deficiency of \$122 million—current assets of \$38 million minus current liabilities of \$160 million.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development for water projects on Saipan. As of March 31, 2004, CUC said that it has a work-

**CUC BEGINS** 

From Page 7

cannot supply the needed power and electricity for all the businesses," said the source.

Of the four power plants on Saipan—Power Plant 1 and 2 located in Lower Base, Power Plant 3 in Isley Airfield, and Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico—only Power Plant 4 has been operating at a maximum capacity of 12.40 megawatts.

Power Plant 1 and 2 are supplying 53 megawatts and 3.4 megawatts respectively, while Power Plant 4 is supplying only 12.40 megawatts to the entire island.

Power Plants 1 and 2 should be supplying 81.2 and 15.0 megawatts, Power Plant 3 should be supplying 4.5 megawatts and Power Plant 4 should be supplying 19.5 megawatts for its daily operation.

Saipan, the biggest and busiest island in the CNMI, need

CNMI

\$476,375.

From Page 7

a total of 120.2 megawatts daily but CUC is only supplying 68.80 megawatts of power.

Based on its records, CUC was expecting 68.80 megawatts of power supply in April 2004 but it generated only 68.65 megawatts, leaving barely .2 percent as its reserve.

The demand on the power supply is expected to shoot up this summer when all students would be home and temperature rises.

"There would be more power outages this summer since people would be home and it would be hot during this period. Now that CUC only has a fraction of power reserve, power outages would be more often," said the official.

The source said that by bringing all hotels and garments off line during peak hours, CUC hope to avert load shedding in residential areas.

However, for the past two days, CUC implemented power outages in certain areas without publicly notifying affected residents and commercial owners ahead of time.

The source explained that one of the reasons why Guam could not get full military investments on their island is due to water concerns. Here on Saipan, business confidence has been dwindling due to concerns on how CUC could supply the needed power demands of businesses.

"How are you going to attract investors when there is no consistent power supply and utilities. That would affect business confidence and would push away prospective investors," he added.

Yesterday, CUC released a revised urgent public advisory on its emergency load shedding outages, citing mechanical and electrical difficulties as primary reasons. CUC said traffic lights would be affected and urged cooperation and patience from the community residing in affected areas while work is being completed.

Affected by power outages were Lower Base, Garapan, Beach Road, Microl intersection traffic light from 10am to 12pm; Lower Base, Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi between 11am and 1pm; Chalan Kiya, San Vicente, Airport Road, As Perdido, Koblerville, Dandan and parts of Papago at 12pm to 2pm; Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Susupe, and parts of Chalan Kanoa around 2pm to 4pm; Shell station Dandan, As Lito, Finasisu, parts of Chalan Kanoa, Chalan Piao, Shell Koblerville and San Antonio at 4pm to 6pm; Lower Base, Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi between 6pm and 8pm; and Sadog Tasi, Lower Base, Capitol Hill, Wireless, Denni, Agag, Mt. Tapochao, As Teo, and Kagman from 8pm through 10pm.

the employer," the report stated. out \$2.3 million to the Office of Fund officials also said that it receives total funds of \$46 million Public Auditor, representing the the 2004 Cost Of Living Allowannually but disburses \$51.2 milance to retirees that amount to to pay the OPA as mandated by lion on a yearly basis. Its annual

In a presentation made to the 14th CNMI Legislature yesterday, Fund officials disclosed that the CNMI government's total outstanding obligation to the Retirement Fund has reached \$84.410 million, broken down as:

\$70.1 million in total employer share payments that remain outstanding;

□ \$8.4 million in total appropriations from Public Law 11-41;

\$1.4 million in total appropriations from the government for FY2003;

\$780,733 in Trust Territory Prior Service costs; and

the 30 percent bonus paid by the Fund. The Retirement Funds said

\$3.54 million representing

it is imposing the maximum 25 percent penalty on the CNMI government for its unpaid employer contribution pursuant to 1 CMC Section 8362(e).

"The Fund continues paying the health and life insurance premiums of retirees as if it is

shortfall reached \$5.23 million and average monthly shortfall reached \$436,064. Also, the Fund stressed that

it is facing problems in the collection of \$70.1 million in outstanding employer contribution from the CNMI government, along with the collection of the \$9.8 million in outstanding appropriation that it should be getting as part of the its annual share of the budget.

According to Fund officials, there has been no new investment since 1997 and problems facing the agency include funding for the new retirees. As of January 2004, the Fund recorded 106 new retirees who would receive a total annual pension of \$3.79 million.

Also, the Fund stressed that untimely receipt from local investment revenue collection has been bringing problems to the NMIRF especially since it needs to pay \$118,245 in monthly loan payments. Its loan balance remains at \$11 million, the report added.

Fund officials also need to pay 1 percent fee that it is supposed law. The amount represents the amount owed for six years.

The Retirement Fund also stressed that one of its concerns are its frozen Time Certificates of Deposit at the Bank of Saipan, amounting to \$3 million.

Further, at least \$2.3 million subsidies from investments since November 2002 to the present were reallocated to fill in the shortage in pension payments.

Some of Funds' money, amounting to \$600,000, was also re-appropriated to the CNMI Group Health and Life Insurance Program in November 2002.

The Fund stressed that its mounting problems are exacerbated by unfunded pension liabilities, which have grown from \$488.4 million in 2001 to \$574.5 million in 2002.

Because of these compounded financial obligations and uncollected debts, the Retirement Fund stressed that there might be payless paydays for pensioners and employees, unless the Fund dips into its investments.

The Fund added that the

shortage would continue for annuity payout and there would be unfavorable tax burdens to the Fund if it draws from its investments.

To resolve these problems, the Fund hopes to work closely with the administration to collect on the overdue employer contributions and to revamp its investment asset allocation to liquidate unfunded pension liability in 16 years.

The Fund hopes to recover its frozen TCDs from the Bank of Saipan amounting to \$3 million for the NMIRF and \$2.75 million for the Judicial Building Fund.

The Fund warned that there would also be foreclosures on delinquent home loan borrowers.

According to Fund officials, to rescue and maintain the NMIRF's financial soundness, it proposes to relieve some of the government's escalating burden by repealing the 3-percent retirement bonus for certain elected officials, benefits for board and commission members, vesting credits for education, military service, compensatory time and unused sick leaves, and prior service vesting credits.

#### SHELL

From Page 7

ing trend in gas prices.

"They're too much already. People will now be working for gas only. Some will probably just ride on their own bikes," the motorist said. "Lawmakers should do something about this."

Shell stations now peg regular and premium gasoline's gallon prices at \$2.429 and \$2.529, respectively, at self-serve rate. Full-serve rates are slightly higher at \$2.559 and \$2.649. Shell also raised the gallon price of diesel by 5 cents, on top of the previous \$2.479, for a new rate of \$2.529.

Shell Marianas president Phil Stalker attributed the increase to the rising cost of crude oil, which he said have broken record highs.

"In addition, the PRC's

[People's Republic of China's] explosive economic growth rate has put extraordinary pressure on refiners to meet the region's need for refined oil products. The net result has been a tremendous increase in the cost of refined gasoline and oil products available to Shell," Stalker said in a media release.

As before, Stalker assured that Shell would roll back fuel prices "should the price of refined product decline."

The new round of price increases by Shell is its fifth for the year. It first raised gallon prices by 7 cents in January, before increasing them again by 5 cents three times, and then 3 cents this time. Shell's cumulative gallon price adjustment for the year has now reached at least 25 cents.

Shell's decision followed that of Mobil, which recently hiked gas prices by 5 cents a gallon.

Mobil has raised its pump prices six times since January this year, increasing gallon prices first by 3 cents, and then 4 cents, before taking on four rounds of 5-cent adjustments. The price increases resulted in a cumulative gallon price adjustment of 27 cents this year.

Mobil gas stations on the islands now retail regular and super gasoline at \$2.589 and \$2.679 per gallon at full-serve rate. Selfserve rate for regular and super gasoline have reached \$2.379 and \$2.479, respectively.

The latest two price hikes for both Shell and Mobil came about even as the Attorney General's Office filed a complaint before the Federal Trade Commission, saying that pump prices on Rota and Tinian are even higher.

CNMI consumer counsel Brian Caldwell particularly listed in the complaint the gas prices of

all Mobil stations on Saipan, asking the FTC's assistance in ascertaining whether or not anomalies in trade practices were actually occurring in the Marianas. Mobil had denied engaging in unfair trade practices and had said that it did not violate any law.

The House of Representatives has yet to introduce a divorcement measure—a matter being looked into by Rep. Ray Yumul, the House committee chair on Commerce and Tourism. Yumul had also said he would look into possibly introducing a measure that would set a ceiling on local gas prices.

The AGO earlier said complaints about gas prices could be sent by email to attorneyge neral@saipan.com or in writing to this address: Office of the Attorney General-Civil Division, Caller Box 10007, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP96950.



## **NMC's Compass offers Life programs for kids**

The Northern Marianas College's Compass unit is offering new, exciting summer youth LIFE programs called Project LIFE and Camp LIFE.

Project LIFE (Lead Into Future Experiences) is a leadership development program for kids ages 12 to 14. This is the CNMI's only summer program that provides CNMI youth with exciting leadership training to develop them into lifelong learners and leaders in today's multicultural society.

Students will undergo leadership training through interactive and motivating workshops, discussions, and activities.

Project LIFE provides experiential learning in leadership skills, public speaking, stress management, team building, event planning, conflict mediation, goal setting, and more.

Week 1 will cover Introduction to Leadership, Week 2 is Personal Development, and Week 3 is Professional Development. Project LIFE will run from June 14 to July 2, 8am-noon and will cost \$150 per child.

"Children deserve to become leaders; help them get there," the college said in a statement.

Camp LIFE (Lead, Imagine, Foster, Experience) is a summer program for children ages 8 to 11. The college said the program is designed to encourage children to explore their creativity, become entrepreneurs, exercise their athleticism, and develop new friendships.

During Week 1, students will learn about team building and the importance of working together through various indoor and outdoor discovery and strategy games. Week 2 is devoted to exposing children to the joys of entrepreneurship. Students will learn basic business concepts and put them to use by running their own business. They will also participate in a Conversational Japanese class, a relevant and useful language that is growing in importance in business all over the world. Week 3 will allow the students to explore and express their creativity through craft making.

Camp LIFE will run from

## OVR rep to hold Tinian outreach

representative from the CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will visit the Tinian community today and tomorrow, June 2-3.

Individuals with disabilities interested in applying for vocational rehabilitation or independent living services are encouraged to meet Bernice Ravell, VR Counselor II, at the Tinian Health Center from 8am to 4pm for an overview of OVR's programs and services.

Ravell will also follow-up with current OVR's consumers on their rehabilitation plan.

For more information, call OVR directly from Tinian at toll free number 433-2010.

June 14 to July 2, 1pm-4:30pm. Parents have the option to enroll their child daily, weekly or for the entire program. The cost

week, or \$150 for 3 weeks.

Spaces are limited, so parents are urged to register today. Last day to register is June 9. will be \$20 per day, \$75 per For more information, contact

Dawn Chrystal Kenney, Community Development Institute at 234-5498 Ext. 1814 or stop by NMC Building V, 2nd Floor.

The NMC Compass (Com-

munity Programs and Services) Unit facilitates lifelong learning by providing continuing education courses, short-term training programs, quality workforce education, and professional development training opportunities for government, business,

industry, and other community organizations.

The following NMC Compass programs are behind Project LIFE and Camp LIFE: Community Development Institute, CREES-4-H, and the Small Business Development Center.

microl +red

# Parents rally to keep lab school running

The economic slowdown in the Marianas has trickled down to the Northern Marianas College Laboratory School, causing turmoil that has rallied the Lab School Parent Advisory Council to take quick action to alleviate the situation.

The council said it is in dire need of about \$136,000 that will be used to hire three teachers for teachers hired in June and onboard in August, the school may have to close the NMC model teaching site, and move to other Public School System facilities.

"We need to raise [\$136,000] in the next few weeks, or the results could be disastrous to the future educational needs of our Public School teachers

the lab school. Without these and children. That's why the Parent Advisory Council will be canvassing the community in the next few days, seeking help to alleviate this tenuous situation," said PAC secretary Sybilla Guerrero.

> The council described the lab school as a dynamic preschool to 8th grade elementary school "where future CNMI

teachers are trained in model practices under the tutelage classrooms under the direction of mentor teachers at the NMC School of Education.'

"Since its inception, hundreds of CNMI PSS teachers have gained from the CLS experience, raising the quality of education in the CNMI. The CLS provides future CNMI teachers with state-of-the-art teaching

of education experts, keeping abreast of the evolving developments in curriculum materials and methods," the council said in a statement.

Although the CNMI governor, Legislature and community have voiced their support for the lab school, and its teaching concepts, CLS remains facing

To get through the next school year, CLS must hire the three teachers but the \$136,000 is not available. "This can seriously impact the model school program and the quality of CNMI education," the council said.

For more information, call CLS principal Richard Pulhalla at 234-5498, Ext. 2205.

WELCOME AND GUUDLO

### Scholarship for govt employees open

The Northern Marianas College said it is now accepting applicants for the Government Employees Professional Development Assistance Program.

This program aims to assist all government employees with their education and training needs by providing a 50-percent discount in tuition rate to all qualified candidates.

To qualify:

All candidates must be employees of the CNMI government.

 All candidates must who proof of ineligibility to receive CNMI Scholarship Grant and Federal Financial Assistance.

- Program benefits are applicable to regular NMC courses only.
- Benefits do not apply to Community Programs' courses and Outreach Programs.
  - Program benefits are based

on space that is available on the last day of Add and Drop.

To register, all candidates must be admitted to NMC. Upon submission of an admissions application and fees, an acceptance letter will be issued. All candidates must apply for financial aid and be declared ineligible. All degree-seeking candidates must take the required Placement Tests and meet with an advisor prior to registering. All GEPDAP candidates must register by seeing an advisor or OAR staff.

Candidates must pay for all applicable institutional and course fees. All payments must be made in accordance with the college office policies.

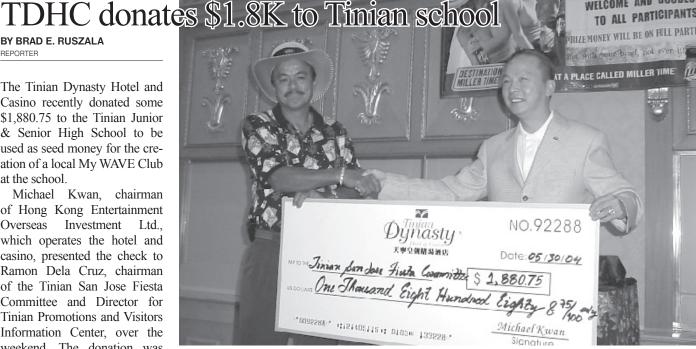
For more information, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1528 or 1523, or email leilanib@nmcnet.edu

BY BRAD E. RUSZALA

The Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino recently donated some \$1,880.75 to the Tinian Junior & Senior High School to be used as seed money for the creation of a local My WAVE Club at the school.

Michael Kwan, chairman of Hong Kong Entertainment Overseas Investment Ltd.. which operates the hotel and casino, presented the check to Ramon Dela Cruz, chairman of the Tinian San Jose Fiesta Committee and Director for Tinian Promotions and Visitors Information Center, over the weekend. The donation was taken from the proceeds of food and beverages sale during the Ultimate Fight Boxing last April 30, 2004.

The club that will be orga-



BRAD E. RUSZALA

Ray Dela Cruz, left, accepts a check from Michael Kwan at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel Casino for the MY WAVE CLUB at Tinian Junior and Senior High schools.

nized using the donated money is similar the My WAVE Clubs on Saipan that aim to bring more local awareness among schoolchildren on the significance of tourism in the community. The goal is to make children understand that tourism is one of the biggest industries on the island and the importance of everyone in the community to be hospitable and friendly to off-island visitors.

"This is also to try and generate more interest among the schoolchildren in the hospitality

industry so that they can join the growing number of local people in tourism related businesses," said Dela Cruz, who has been the chairman of the Tinian San Jose Fiesta Committee in the last four years.

Dela Cruz thanked Kwan on behalf of the Tinian Mayor's Office and the people of Tinian for his continued support and commitment to the community and for his contribution to the school.

century travel

ctsi travel

SAIPAN TRIBUNE L O C A L WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004 11

# Congress takes up brown tree snake

CNMI Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio recently provided oral testimony in Congress in support of a bill to provide for the control and eradication of the brown tree snake on Guam and the prevention of the introduction of the BTS to other areas of the United States and territories.

H.R. 3479, or the proposed Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act, was introduced by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo and Hawaii Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Ed Case.

At the legislative hearing conducted May 13 by the Sub-committee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans of the U.S. House Committee on Resources, Tenorio spoke of the devastating ecologic and economic damage the BTS has inflicted on Guam and how similar events could transpire if the BTS is not properly controlled and it manages to establish a foothold in the CNMI.

"Because of its close proximity, the increasing frequency of vessel and cargo traffic, and similar environments and climate, the CNMI is at an incredibly high risk for BTS introduction from Guam," said Tenorio.

Key objectives of H.R. 3479 include the authorization of \$18 million in each fiscal year from 2005 to 2010 to the U.S.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio reads his testimony during a public hearing in the U.S. Congress on the brown tree snake afflicting Guam. Behind him is Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo.

departments of Agriculture and of the Interior for BTS control, interdiction, research, and eradication; the statutory authorization of and establishment of a BTS Control and Eradication Committee; greater federal involvement and support for BTS concerns on Guam; and greater federal involvement and

cooperation with state and local authorities to prevent the introduction of BTS to other areas of the United States.

"The passage of H.R. 3479 is vital because it would ensure long-term funding and support for control, research, and hopeful eradication of the BTS," said Tenorio. "It is also

imperative in that it would ensure that the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, and various federal agencies would work closely to prevent the spread of BTS beyond the borders of Guam to other areas in the Pacific and the mainland US."

Those who testified along with Tenorio included Case; Dr.

James Tate Jr., Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Department of the Interior; William Clay, Deputy Administrator of Wildlife Services, Department of Agriculture; and testifying via videoconference were Guam Gov. Felix Camacho and Guam Sen. Tina Barnes.

The BTS is believed to have

been inadvertently brought to Guam shortly after World War II, transported in materials on a military cargo ship possibly from Guinea or Australia. Because of the previously abundant prey and the lack of natural predators, the BTS easily managed to thrive on Guam.

The BTS has been the principal cause of the devastation of the island's native bird and lizard population, where 10 of 13 bird species and nine of 12 lizard species have been wiped out.

The CNMI is the final remaining home to several indigenous endemic and endangered bird species that also used to inhabit Guam but were exterminated by the BTS.

Besides the environmental harm, the BTS has also caused major damage to Guam's economy. They are believed to have been directly responsible for causing 241 power outages in the past five years and 1,600 in the past 20 years, costing about \$4.5 million per year.

All testimony heard was in support of H.R. 3479. The measure has also been referred to the House Agriculture Committee.

"Regional cooperation is the cornerstone of this bill, and the only way this species can be controlled and eventually eradicated," concluded Tenorio.

dial rent

12 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Island Snapshots

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004 **13** 

## Local Milestones

## 32 GTC students bids school adieu

By SHAN SEMAN

REPORTER

A total of 32 youngsters said their goodbyes as students of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary yesterday morning during a farewell ceremony that recognized their efforts and accomplishments throughout their years as grade school students.

Flanked by parents, family members, school officials,



**ROVANA JOEZ SN. DECENA** Commissioner's Award

and dignitaries, the students remained calm and collected, perfectly nailing and acing several performances that touched many spectators, including a spectacular singing performance of Munga Engrattu—a tribute to parents that featured the students presenting flowers to parents.

The ceremony also featured a speech by Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, who served as



**CELESTIAL JEWEL C. DELA CRUZ** Principal's Award

the event's keynote speaker. Naraja challenged the students to push for a bright future and noted various leaders serving the government who were pupils at the school.

The students also received words of wisdom from GTC Parents/ Teachers Association president Candido Taman and GTC principal Manuela A. Babauta.

"Your enthusiasm for learning and your exceptional academic performance have guaranteed you an outstanding future," said Babauta. "You are to be commended for the positive example you have set for your peers and high standards you have set for yourself."

Rovana Joez SN. Decena was conferred the Commissioner's Award, which is given to the student posting the highest Grade Point Average from fourth to sixth grade.

Celestial Jewel C. Dela Cruz was the proud recipient of the prestigious Principal's Award, which was awarded to the student

Presiding Judge Robert Naraja talks to the sixth grade students during their farewell ceremony yesterday at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. Naraja was the keynote speaker.

SHAN SEMAN



As part of their "Tribute to Parents" performance, the sixth grade students left the stage and presented parents with gifts.

SHAN SEMAN

with the second highest GPA.

The Presidential Awardees were Andrea D. Tenorio. Nicole C. Tesiro, Remylynn C. Mafnas, Ryan M. Litulumar,

Luella Orlando, Ramir T. Balialba, Dominic A. Reyes, Marlon C. Meily, Necita Aldan, and Franco M. Santos.

Other awards, including Presidential Awards for Educational Achievement, Leadership awards, Perfect Attendance awards, and Citizenship awards, were also presented.

## .as 62 Kingfishers say adios

By SHAN SEMAN

REPORTER

With the number of years spent at the school, the sixth grade students of William S. Reyes Elementary School will surely carry with them fond memories as they closed one chapter in their lives and embarked on a new one.

Surely among those memories would be yesterday's farewell ceremony held at the school grounds. A total of 62 students were recognized for the efforts that merited their promotion to the junior high school level.

In keeping with the school's

mascot, Kingfisher, principal Alfred Ada commended the students, parents, and teachers with advice to "aim high, fly high, go Kingfishers.'

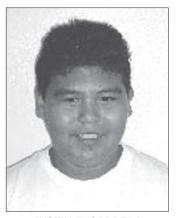
Heading to the stage with much pride was Justin E. Cabrera, whose determination and commitment to pursuing educational excellence paid off when he was named as the Commissioner's Award recipient.

Jonel Marissa C. Ermitanio was also all smiles as she earned the Kingfisher Award while Scott G. Cabrera took home the Principal's Award.

Other awards were also pre-

sented, including several Presidential awards, Honor awards, Subject awards, Bilingual Award, and Sportsmanship Award.

Prior to leaving, the sixth grade students gave another performance to solidify their legacy, performing their farewell song Graduation. They also wowed the audience with a dance performance. A special presentation was also conducted by the fifth grade bilingual class.



**JUSTIN E. CABRERA** Commissioner's Award



JONEL MARISSA C. ERMITANIO Kingfisher Award



SCOTT G. CABRERA Principal's Award



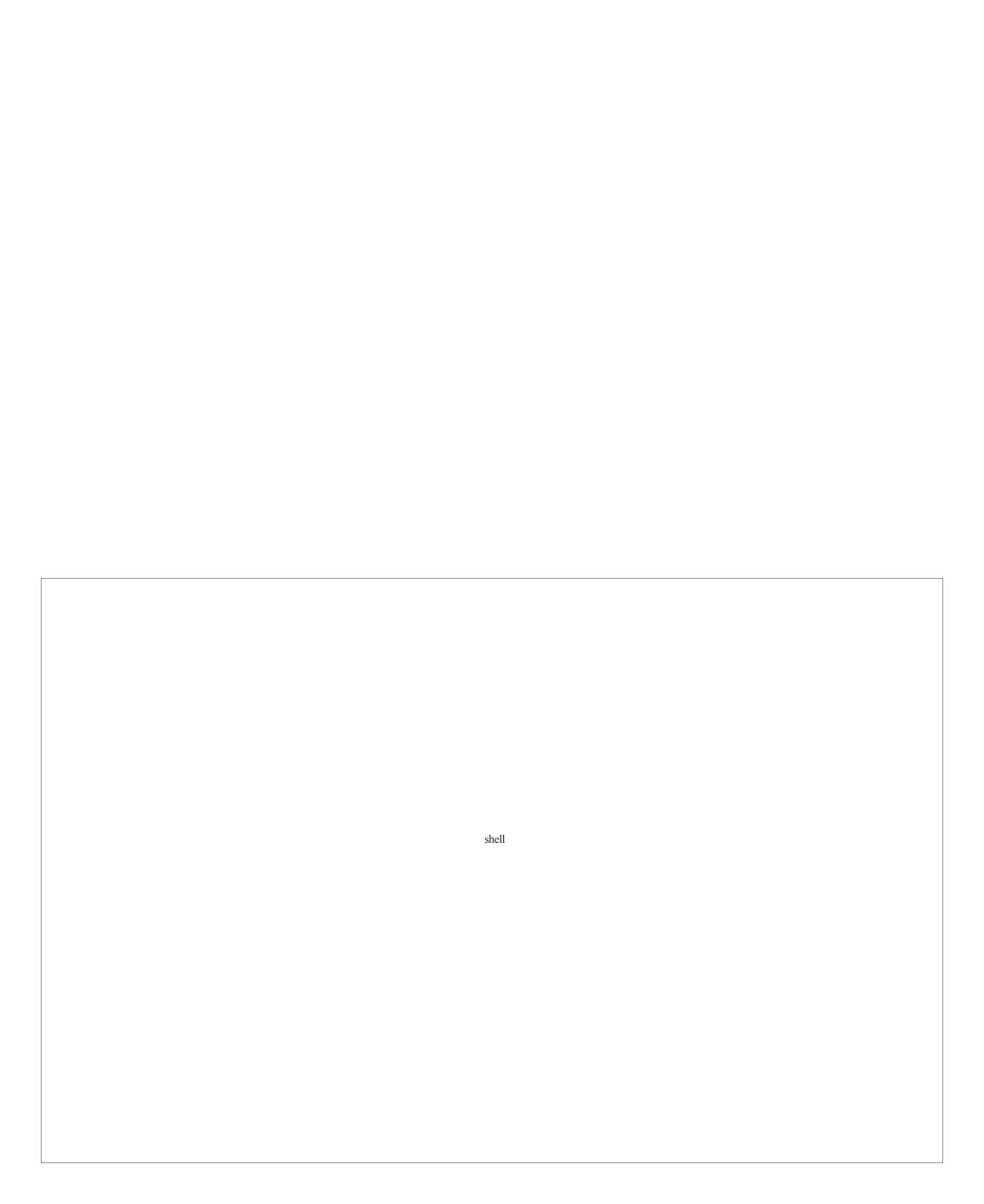
Sixth grade students pay close attention to remarks during their farewell ceremony yesterday at the William S. Reyes Elementary School.



Prior to their promotion to the iunior high school level, the sixth grade students were honored in a farewell ceremony at the William S. Reyes Elementary School.

CASSIE FEJERAN

dial rent



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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## World

# Car bomb kills four in Baghdad

By DANICA KIRKA

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** (AP)—A car bomb exploded Monday near coalition headquarters, killing four people and wounding 25 in violence that U.S. authorities believe was aimed at blocking the coming transfer of power. Four American soldiers were reported killed in other attacks.

Shiite leaders also urged U.S. troops to halt "aggressive patrolling" in a bid to save a tattered truce with a radical cleric's militia around Shiite holy cities south of the capital.

Monday's blast took place in Baghdad's Harithiyah district, about a half-mile from where the head of the Iraqi Governing Council, Izzadine Saleem, was assassinated in a May 17 car bombing. U.S. soldiers pushed back screaming crowds as ambulances raced to tend to the wounded.

U.S. officers said no prominent political figures were in the area at the time and they were uncertain of the target. It also was unclear whether it was a suicide attack.

However, the dead did include Sabiha Aref, 72, the sister of former Iraqi presidents Abdel-Salam Aref and Abdel-Rahman Aref, who served as head of state in succession between 1963 and 1968. She was killed by flying glass while cooking lunch at home, a relative said on condition he not be named.

Four American soldiers died over the weekend in separate atpeared to be unraveling.



U.S. soldiers stand guard in front of pieces of a burned out car at the scene of a car bomb explosion in Baghdad, Iraq Monday.

tacks, including two killed during fighting in the Shiite holy city of Kufa, where a five-day Shiite-negotiated truce between the Americans and radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's militia ap-

Hoping to save the cease-fire, Governing Council member Ahmad Chalabi and other Shiite leaders met with al-Sadr representatives and declared there was "a momentum for peace."

Shiite leaders said Americans

## Iraqis decry US over president choice

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)— Iraqi Governing Council members accused American officials Monday of pressuring them to accept Washington's choice for Iraq's new president, prompting a delay in the announcement of a new government to take power from the U.S.-led coalition June 30.

U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi had hoped to complete the selection of the 26-member Cabinet by Monday. However, a Governing Council session that was to have chosen a president was postponed until at least Tuesday, with sharp differences remaining between the council and the coalition over the largely ceremonial head of state job.

"I hope it will be taken tomorrow," Governing Council spokesman Hameed al-Kafaei said of the choice of president. "But then again, there is no sacred date and it could take

should end their "aggressive patrolling" and stay away from holy sites in Najaf and Kufa, Najaf Gov. Adnan al-Zurufi said.

In exchange, those militiamen not from Najaf and Kufa would go home while others would keep off the streets.

"The preliminary agreement is already there," al-Zurufi said. "We're waiting for an official response from the high command."

While the Americans consid-

another day or two."

Most council members favor civil engineer Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer, 45, the current council president. The Americans are

backing former foreign minister Adnan Pachachi, 81. Both are Sunni Muslims.

Two council members said other candidates may be put forward to break the deadlock.

In what U.S. authorities called an effort to prevent the handover of power, insurgents detonated a car bomb Monday near coalition headquarters, killing four people and wounding 25. Four American soldiers were reported killed in other attacks.

Pachachi

The U.S.-run coalition maintains ultimate authority in Iraq, but the Americans must decide whether they want to risk a

er the proposal, al-Sadr's fighters will reduce their visibility in Najaf and Kufa for the next 48 hours, said Ali al-Jhoriafi, an official close to the talks.

The Shiite leaders also hope the Americans will cut back on patrols during the same period.

Coalition spokesman Dan Senor characterized the talks as a step forward even if no deal is reached.

Shiite politicians are trying

major breach with their Iraqi allies at a sensitive period as Washington prepares to hand control of a still-unstable, warravaged country to an untested

leadership.



"We in the council have agreed that Sheik Ghazi al-Yawer should be the president of Iraq," council member and prominent Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani told Al-Arabiya television. "But if the coalition has a different opinion, then they must come and explain to the council. There is a near consensus in the council that Sheik Ghazi is the better-suited

to end the 2-month-old standoff in the cities 100 miles south of Baghdad and restore government control there.

Troubles emerged in the cities after occupation authorities cracked down on al-Sadr's militia in April, closing his newspaper and announcing an arrest warrant against him for the killing of a rival cleric. Al-Sadr's supporters took to the streets, vowing to protect him.

## Saudi authorities hunt for militants

By DONNA ABU-NASR AP WRITER

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi authorities hunted Monday for three suspected al-Qaida militants who used hostages as human shields to escape after a weekend assault on a residential complex that killed 22 people, mostly foreign oil industry workers.

The attackers fled Khobar to nearby Dammam, where they abandoned their truck for a car commandeered at gunpoint from an unidentified driver and drove off with police in pursuit, a police official said Monday.

A fourth militant—described as the ringleader—was captured Sunday after helicopter-borne Saudi commandos raided the upscale Oasis compound, where the gunmen had taken dozens of foreigners hostage in a hotel a day earlier.

The captured suspect and one of the fugitives were wounded, but it wasn't immediately clear how seriously.

It was the worst terror attack on Saudi soil in a year and the second this month to target its oil industry.

On Monday, bloodstains, glass shards, bullet holes and evidence of grenade blasts scarred the sealed-off Oasis resort complex, according to an employee. Broken windows were visible in the upper floors of the hotel.

The official death toll from the entire 25-hour siege was eight Indians, three Filipinos, three Saudis, two Sri Lankans, an American, a Briton, an Italian, a Swede, a South African and a 10-year-old Egyptian. Twenty-five people of various nationalities were injured. and security forces evacuated 242 people from the Oasis, including residents not held hostage but trapped inside.

#### 5 drown in Austria lake boating accident

MOEDLING, Austria (AP)—A catamaran filled with tourists overturned on Europe's largest underground lake Monday, drowning five people after the boat's railings formed a cage 5 feet down on the lake floor, officials said.

The accident took place toward the end of a 45-minute tour of the Hinterbruehl grotto, a popular cave featuring a vast, shallow subterranean lake. Twenty-seven passengers and crew were on the boat when it suddenly tipped over, authorities said.

Most of the passengers waded in the chilly water through a tunnel to safety, but the boat's safety railings formed a cage around four people, trapping them under the vessel, regional police chief Franz Polzer told Austrian state broadcaster ORF.

"They were literally imprisoned under the water," he was quoted as saying on the ORF Web page.

The cause of the accident was under investigation. The catamaran has a capacity of 29 people.

#### **Sharon asks legislators** to OK Gaza plan

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Monday asked rebellious Likud Party legislators to accept



a revised Gaza withdrawal plan, but the meeting was cut short after he came under sharp verbal attack. "You have no majority in any party forum," Likud legislator Naomi Blumenthal told Sharon, accusing him of ignoring the party's wishes.

The turbulent meeting was a sign of a growing Likud rebellion against Sharon, who says he will push the plan through at all costs, even though Likud members resoundingly rejected it in a referendum earlier this month.

On Sunday, Sharon failed to secure a majority in the Cabinet for his Gaza plan, and postponed a vote until next week.

#### **UN** troops heading back to Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—U.N. troops are coming back to Haiti, but after a decade of failed missions many in the traumatized nation wonder whether the peacekeepers—cobbled together from countries ranging from Argentina to Zimbabwe—are up to the daunting task.

Although the official handover is Tuesday, only 42 of some 8,000 troops and police have arrived.

Brightly colored flags of 30 participating nations dot empty barracks at the airport. And only samples of the blue U.N. headgear have arrived.

man for the job."

Floods that killed nearly 1,700 people last week and stranded thousands in remote villages have forced U.S. troops to stay past their June 1 departure date. American and French forces in the fournation force handing the baton to the United Nations are the only ones with helicopters to bring aid to otherwise unreachable villages.

#### Oldest person dies at 114 in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Ramona Trinidad Iglesias Jordan, who at age 114 was recognized as the world's oldest person, has died after a bout with pneumonia, her family said Monday.

Iglesias died Saturday in a nursing home in San Juan, said Rene Matos, a great nephew who lives in El Paso, Texas. She was three months from turning 115.

"I was hoping she could make it to her 115th birthday, but it was impossible," Matos said by telephone from Texas. "She was in the hospital about four or five days, and the day after she was released she died in the nursing home."

Iglesias earned the distinction in April when Guinness World Records declared her the world's oldest living woman after a check of documents.

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## WWII Veterans Remember

July 13, 1989

Good morning Angie:

Your folks have been gone for almost 6 weeks and I am only now getting around to writing to you. My main reason for writing is to send the enclosed papers which were the subject of our conversation while they were here.

This story of our invasion of Tinian comes from a book entitled, "The Fourth Marine Division in Action", and it is a compilation of the four battles in which we made D-Day landings, namely The Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. We assaulted Tinian on July 24, which was my birthday. Ten days earlier we had ended our conquest of Saipan, and now after 10 days of continual bombardment we were to go ashore on Tinian. Once we were ashore I was sort of sorry that we had to beat the place up so, as it was probably the prettiest of all the islands that we invaded. Saipan had a couple of rather industrialized small towns called Garapan and Chalan Kanoa. The main industry was sugar refining. This island was heavily fortified and viciously defended. We left it in ruins. On the other hand, Tinian seemed to be bread basket for both islands as it was covered with truck gardens. With our meager, daily diet of rations, we were delighted to get these fresh vegetables.

It also seemed to be the religious center as we came across many Shinto shrines. We always tried to refrain from ruining these unless the Japs holed up in them and then we had to blast them out.

The heat on Tinian did not seem so oppressive as it was on Saipan and there were not the swarms of flies that we had on Saipan. The flies there were the worst we faced anywhere in the Pacific. We had to pull our dungaree jackets up over our head as we ate our rations, as the flies would go right into our mouths.

I won't bore you with the details on our landing or the fighting that ensued, you can read all that in the enclosure. One thing that is worth mentioning was something that we had never faced before...mass suicides. The first time that we saw this, we were dumbfounded and there was nothing that we could do except sit and watch. We constantly brought up Niseis that we had brought with us from Hawaii to talk to them in their native tongue, but to no avail. Most of the time they threw their children off the cliffs and then jumped over after them. Other times [they] sat in a big circle, rolled live hand grenades into the center of the circle and blew themselves up. Such were the rigors of war.

We had a great time when your folks were here. We had our annual golfers picnic out on our deck, the weatherman cooperated and they got to see all of their old friends. Then we had a card game with the 4 couples in our bridge club and this covered a span of 20 odd years. We are going to their place in Florida, perhaps to be with them for New Year's Eve. Then they will come over to our place in Venice in February.

I hope that all of you are enjoying your new experience. You are certainly getting an education that few families are ever privileged to have. Hopefully we can get together when you get back for I am certain we will have many stories to swap.

My best to all of you,

January 4, 1991

Good morning Angie:

This year, like you, Jean and I spent New Year's Eve many miles from home. However, we were privileged to spend it with old friends...people by the name of Frank and Marge [Angie's parents]. Just like the many New Year's Eves that we spent in Stroudsburg, we had a quiet, nice time. Your dad and I played golf in the afternoon while Jean and Marge went shopping.

Your dad is in great shape and your mother seems to be fine physically. However the eyes continue to be a problem and I think might be gradually worsening. They are very much aware of this and are making overtures to the rest home facilities in St. Petes that your mother's aunt is in. As much as they like their place in Avon Park, I think that their move to the gulf coast might be imminent and probably for the better.

Now let's take a look at some of the points that you made in your recent welcome letter.

The pictures are great and will be seen by many. At every gathering of Marines who were in the Saipan-Tinian battles, the subject always turns to the various suicide fiascos. Only this past week one of friends was describing one such slaughter and he described it in minute details. I guess we all have memories of these gruesome incidents. When you get back we will get together and compare notes.

When you talk about going over to Saipan, it always seems to me that you are talking in reverse. During the battle we went from Saipan to Tinian. We fought for approx 6 weeks to conquer Saipan and approx 3 weeks to take Tinian. My tank crew (4 other guys) and I were the first persons to land on Tinian. We were sent in as an experimental tank to see if the beach was mined. If it was, the weight of the tank would set off a mine and thus warn of danger. We ran over one mine, which fortunately was an anti-personnel mine and did nothing ran more than blow one of our tracks off. We then cleaned up the rest of the mines. The beach that we landed on at Tinian was the smallest in the history of modern warfare.

Saipan was the industrial and military island. Garapan was the capitol and Chalan Kanoa was the sugar refining town. We landed at Chalan Kanoa and were pre-warned not to unnecessarily ruin the town or refinery buildings, since the natives would need these to restart their economy after we left. We followed these orders for the first day, but on the second, when we were being decimated by heavy sniper fire, we blew down the smoke stack on the refinery and found many, many bodies of females who were sniping at us from gun slits in the walls.

Tinian was the breadbasket for the 2 islands with many well cared for gardens and some great fruit and vegetables. I always hated to ruin these as the food was needed to feed the natives and it would have been great to have some fresh fruit and vegetables ourselves. However, that destruction was the byproducts of war. There were also several Shinto shrines, which leads me to believe that Tinian was the religious center for the area. Here again, we were told not destroy these shrines, and again we complied until we began to receive gunfire. The shots you sent of North Field...again we were used as guinea pigs to make the first drive across this half completed airfield. We went across without any trouble, but on the other side we ran into trouble. This was not unusual except for the fact that one of our tank commanders was killed by a fanatic who crawled up on the tank and placed a mine on the hatch. The bad part was that the man killed had just received a letter saying that he was a new father for the first time. Again the fortunes of war.

There were many civilians of both sexes on Saipan, but I can't recall any women or children on Tinian. I did run across a Japanese Dr. who received his degree from the U. of San Francisco. He was an arrogant cuss and would not cooperate before we sent him back to the prisoners' pen, so I relieved him of his medical kit which I now have back in Stroudsburg.

I cannot ever remember seeing any Filipinos on either of the islands. They must have come after the war to

escape from Marcos. There were quite a few Catholic nuns on the islands, especially Saipan. Are they still there? Between the destruction that

we wrought and the rough handling they got from the Japanese soldiers, these gals had a rough time. I have talked with many men who were sent to Australia either to a hospital or as a rest camp, and every one says that

Sydney is the cleanest town they were ever in. Our rest camp was the island of Maui and there was none better. I was always intrigued by driving around and seeing the black sand beaches (lava) and the paths that the lava made as it raced to the sea. Our camp was 2/3 of the way up Mt. Haleakala, which I believe is the largest extinct volcano in the world.

Well, its time for me to put away the typewriter and get on with the day. I hope that the remainder of your time in the islands is pleasurable and that we will get to see you when you get back. It has been a tradition in our set in Stroudsburg, to have the annual golfers picnic on the Memorial Day weekend. Your folks are talking about coming up for it this year. If they do, and if you are home, please be our guest. We will have room for all of your for however long you wish to stay.



The main city of the island, Garapan, had a pre-war population of over 200,000. After the war, native population: zero. Picture courtesy of "A Stone's Throw From Tokyo: A Pictorial Overseas History of the 101st SEABEES," as provided by Marie Castro, a

## Letters from the greatest generation

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

EDITOR

It was 1989. Angie Sills, now a teacher at the Science Department of the Northern Marianas College, was a mite upset. At that time, she was on Tinian and was distressed at the local prices of Tyson chicken. She was so disconcerted at how much the chicken cost at the local grocery story that this prompted her to write to Tyson Foods Inc. in Arkansan to at least help out in bringing the prices down.

The response she got was a surprise, not only because the company's executive vice president, Bob Justice, actually took time out to respond to her concerns but also because Justice turned out to be a veteran of the Battles

of Saipan and Tinian. Apparently, Sills' letter, which came all the way from Tinian, brought back a rush of memories for Justice, who related to Sills some of his experiences

At the same time, Sills found out that a family friend, Ed Bollard, was also a veteran of that bloody conflict in the Pacific. When he found out that she is now living in the Northern Mariana Islands, he wrote her some of his experiences in the war and his memories of the CNMI, particularly Tinian, which he described in one of the letters as one of the prettiest islands he's ever seen in the Pacific. At that time, Bollard was a Tank Commander for the 2nd Tank Battalion, Fourth Marine Division.

Below are the texts of those letters, which Sills' kindly furnished the Saipan Tribune for publication.

Hello from Arkansas

May 23, 1989

Thank you for your letter of April 30, from that tiny island of Tinian way out in the blue Pacific Ocean. Back home, as you know, we would say it's a "fer piece" from Arkansas. But for Tyson's chicken products, its just another stopping place in the world market. We often hear from Arkansas who travel on tour overseas on how surprised they were to find our products even in the remote places. They tell us that it makes them feel home-like.

I'm sorry to report that there isn't much we can do about the price of chicken in the marketplace, especially on Tinian. We just hope that it isn't too out of reason for you.

Saipan! What a difference it must be like today compared to how I saw it in the year 1945. As a young sailor serving aboard a Minesweeper Destroyer, we went through five days of battle in preparations for invading the island. The Japanese held both islands. As we swept the waters for mines underneath and above water, we were attacked by Jap fighter planes and heavy artillery fire from the beach. Our battleships, cruisers and destroyers setting some five miles out at sea were blasting Saipan with their big guns as we moved closer to the beach. Their shells zoomed over us causing shock waves to those on deck. This went on day and night during the five years.

We watched our fighter planes as they bombed the island and dog-fight the Jap planes above us. On the fifth day our Navy moved in within a half of a mile from the beach. The 3rd Marine Division aboard troop ships prepared to leave for the island at daybreak on the sixth day. While positioned this close to the beach, several ships were hit with heavy mortar from the beach. The Battleship California setting near us was heavily damaged that night by torpedoes from a Jap submarine that had slipped through our corridor.

We watched as the Marines left their ship in small landing craft and head for Saipan. At least two we saw never made it to the beach. Once they landed all ships fired their shells high into the hills of the island. Airplanes fell into the ocean around us, ours as well as the Japs. It was a sight to behold. On the ninth day the Marines captured Saipan and raised the American flag.

The day we left Saipan dark clouds of smoke were hovering over both islands. Of the nine different invasions that my ship participated in the South Pacific war, Saipan remains foremost in my mind.

I hope I'm not taking an advantage of your letter by writing a personal experience, but as a teacher I thought my wartime sea story might be of interest

During your stay on Tinian if we can be of any help to you, please let us hear

Best of luck

Sincerely, Bob Justice Executive Vice-President, Tyson Foods Inc. Governmental Affairs & Community Relations 18 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Campus Life



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## Life & Style

# Logo network aimed toward gays, lesbians

By DAVID BAUDER

AP TELEVISION WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Logo, an MTV-backed basic cable network aimed at the gay and lesbian community and long in the planning stages, will go on the air next February.

In announcing a Feb. 17 launch date Tuesday, the Viacom-owned MTV Networks provided few specific programming plans, other than to say it will offer a mix of movies, reruns and reality-oriented shows.

Viacom had been discussing a gay cable network since at least 1994, but put it on the back burner because of a weak economy and other priorities. Now, an improved economic outlet has pushed the plans forward.

"We're excited," said Joan Garry, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "Cable television is about niche programming and our niche has been conspicuously absent for a long, long time."

However, the Traditional Values Coalition announced plans to boycott any Logo advertisers.

Logo will be available on cable systems in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta and San Francisco and is seeking other distribution. Its goal is to be in about 14 million homes by the end of next year.

Tom Freston, MTV Networks chairman and CEO, said offering Logo as a basic cable service would make it a more promising

business, despite limitations on language and content that pay outlets like HBO and Showtime don't face.

The main network geared to gays and lesbians now is Here TV, a pay service available only on satellite TV systems, although it has plans for cable distribution later this year.

Paul Colichman, president of Here TV, said he sees Logo more as a complementary service—and potential business partner—than a competitor.

"We're very excited because it gives us another buyer for our old programming," he said.

Logo's greatest challenge will be appealing to a diverse gay and lesbian community that has high expectations, Garry said.

"The recipe for success for a gay channel is programming vision, access to distribution and a comfort with risk-taking," she said. "MTV brings those things together. They're a huge force in the cable industry, so their distribution is strong."

With affiliated networks MTV, VH1, Spike, Nick-elodeon and CBS, Viacom has muscle in the industry that startup companies can't match. That's a lesson that Pridevision TV, a gay channel in Canada that has unsuccessfully tried to expand in the United States, has learned.

Logo's operators say they also want it to be a comfortable place for viewers who aren't gay. Freston said the timing of Logo's announcement had nothing to do with the current push toward homosexual marriages.

# Class rings get personal to win back students' hearts

By VALERIE J. NELSON LOS ANGELES TIMES

A battle for the hearts, minds and fingers of the nation's highschool students is being waged in the tiniest of theaters: the side panels of senior class rings.

School mascots and graduation year, the hallmarks of rings in the past, are being bumped aside or minimized to make room for "pride sides"—minuscule designs that would be hard to link to in-class accomplishment, including Zodiac and peace signs, skateboarders, ethnic flags, rock climbers and figure skaters.

Although ring companies still employ campus representatives, they have begun pointing students toward the Internet, where "configurators" enable would-be buyers to design rings and view the results before committing. Product developers attend jewelry and accessory trade shows to plug into the latest fads, then incorporate them into designs.

"I joke that our slogan should be, 'Bling-bling, buy a class ring," says Deb Gabor, director of retail marketing for ArtCarved, which sells school rings in jewelry stores.

When you throw in the hundreds of ring options—from color, cut and adornment of the stone to type of metal and style of ring—it can make flipping through a half-pound ring catalog about as much fun as cramming for the SAT. And although price remains an issue for some students, relevance may be a bigger one, educators



and people in the industry say, as being true to one's school increasingly takes a back seat to being true to oneself.

"We are kind of losing touch with the idea of a ring bringing a class together as a unit. With the ring evolving into me-me-me product design, the school is less and less a part of the process," says Kean Chan, product manager for Balfour, based in Austin, Texas, one of the big three companies that sell rings on campuses.

A few schools, especially more traditional private ones,

are moving back to the onering concept that they see as more unifying, Chan and others say. Ring companies are also dealing with a backlash over too much choice by streamlining catalogs and pricing structures that can seem as complicated as calculus.

About half the nation's students purchase a class ring, according to industry estimates. That's down about 15 percent from a decade ago, says Chan. Given prom bids, grad night, senior portraits and graduation announcements, "the price of

being a senior is astronomical," says Jon Lyons, the studentbody adviser at Pasadena High School in Pasadena, Calif. "Some do say, 'I'd rather have a ring than go to the prom.' It's a series of choices students and parents have to make."

With the average cost of a ring about \$250 to \$275, one of the first expenses to go may be a piece of jewelry whose post-graduation destiny is the sock drawer.

When students buy rings, educators say, they often try to save money by choosing a less costly nonprecious metal while still going all out to personalize it. By seeing rings as an opportunity for self-expression, students are redefining the concept of a class ring, manufacturers say.

To capitalize on what Gabor calls the "super hot" personalization trend reflected in Tiffany initial necklaces and personalized handbags, ArtCarved came up with a line last year that turns a student's specific experience into a mini-tribute.

"You can take the personalization all the way down to the position you played and the jersey number you wore in a sport," Gabor says. "You weren't just in the band, you were first chair. You weren't just a cheerleader, you were captain."

The "bling-bling factor" is manifesting itself in diamonds or cubic zirconias that pop up as the zeroes in the class year, she says. Jostens has a new line that allows students to incorporate stones in their names or their school mascot's.

mell +red/blue

# 'Shrek 2' propels box office to record

By DAVID GERMAIN

AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)— "Shrek 2" retained the top spot at the box office with \$92.2 million over the long holiday weekend, fending off the globalcatastrophe tale "The Day After Tomorrow," which debuted with \$86 million, according to studio estimates Monday.

The two movies led Hollywood to a record Memorial Day weekend haul. The top 12 movies alone took in \$233.5 million, easily topping the previous best of \$202 million for all movies over Memorial Day weekend last year.

If the numbers for "Shrek 2" hold up when final figures are released Tuesday, the movie would have the best Memorial Day weekend gross ever, beating the \$90.2 million take for "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" in 1997.

In its second weekend, "Shrek 2" pushed its total to \$257 million since opening May 19. The sequel should pass the \$267.7 million domestic total for the first "Shrek" by Wednesday or Thursday, said Jim Tharp, head of distribution for DreamWorks, which released both animated hits.

"Shrek 2" will pass \$300 million, but Tharp would not predict if it had a shot at beating the \$340 million total for "Finding Nemo," the box-office champ among animated movies.

"We think we'll be well over \$300 million. We just don't know how far over yet," Tharp said. "Shrek 2" faces stiff competition for the family crowd this coming weekend from the debut of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," Tharp said.

20th Century Fox, the studio behind "The Day After Tomorrow," was happy to come in second to "Shrek 2," said head of distribution Bruce Snyder.

"It's amazing how the marketplace expanded to embrace 'Day After Tomorrow' with 'Shrek' already taking up so much business," Snyder said.

"The Day After Tomorrow" features Dennis Quaid as a scientist trying to prevent the end of the world when global warming unleashes climatological disaster. The movie's dazzling visual effects including tidal waves flooding Manhattan and a deep freeze in Britain.

"This puts to bed any notion that audiences can't handle doomsday scenarios or end-ofthe-world-type films post-Sept.



Shrek (Mike Myers) and Puss-in-Boots (Antonio Banderas) warm up to each other in DreamWorks' "Shrek 2."

11." said Paul Dergarabedian. president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "People love to see things they could not deal with in real life. They love to see the world annihilated. It's a vicarious thrill."

"Shrek 2" and "The Day Af-

ter Tomorrow" accounted for 76 percent of revenues among the top 12 movies, choking off business for two other new flicks.

Kate Hudson's comedy "Raising Helen," about a career woman who becomes reluctant ward to her dead sister's three

children, debuted at No. 4 with \$14 million, coming in behind "Troy," which took third with 8. \$15 million.

"Soul Plane," about a funky airline, opened in fifth-place with \$7 million.

In limited release, Jena Malo-

ne and Mandy Moore's satiric "Saved!", about a teenager at a Christian school ostracized when she becomes pregnant, opened strongly with \$440,000 at 20 theaters.

Mario Van Peebles' "Baadasssss!", in which he stars as his father, Melvin, on his quest to make the seminal black-power flick "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," had a modest debut of \$57,929 in 13 theaters.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Tuesday.

- "**Shrek 2**," \$92.2 million.
- "The Day After Tomorrow," \$86 million.
- "Troy," \$15 million.
- "Raising Helen," \$14 mil-
- "Soul Plane," \$7 million.
- "Mean Girls," \$6.3 mil-
- "Van Helsing," \$6.2 mil-
- "Man on Fire," \$2.4 million.
- "13 Going on 30," \$1.4 million.
- "Super Size Me," \$1.35

## Ushers thwart pirates at Potter showings

LONDON (AP)—Ushers at British cinemas showing the new Harry Potter film have been issued military-style night vision goggles to thwart cinema pirates.

Vue Cinemas said Monday its staff will spend all two hours and 22 minutes of the film "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" scanning the theaters in an effort to uncover anyone trying to secretly record the film.

The goggles were distributed to Vue cinemas around Britain, along with copies of the film, by Warner Brothers. The company is determined to fight back after a deluge of poor quality copies of the first two Harry Potter movies hit the black market.

"It is an incredible response and makes you realize why the distributors are so keen to protect the film from pirates," said Jamie Graham, who manages a Vue complex in Ellesmere, central England. "I have been working in the cinema industry for 10 years and I have never heard of anything like this before."

Graham said his theater had



Emma Watson signs autographs at the UK premiere of 'Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban' in London, Sunday May 30, 2004.

sold 6,500 tickets before 9 a.m. for screenings of the movie, which opened Monday in Britain.

"Our ushers are using the goggles in every screening to check nobody is making any

illegal recordings," he said. "If anybody is caught, then they will be reported to the police."

The popularity of the Harry Potter movie franchise shows little sign of dwindling, with

hundreds of fans turning out for the premiere of the new film Sunday night in London's Leicester Square.

The movie opens June 4 in the United States.

## Country singer Kathy Mattea doing fundraiser

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)— Country singer Kathy Mattea has a personal interest in this week's fund-raiser for the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute. Her mother, now 83, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the late 1990s.

"When I go home and visit my mother, I always have a

period of grief," Mattea said. The Cross Lanes native said her family has rallied around their mother in the years since her diagnosis. Still, Mattea worries that the disease, which runs in her family, will strike her.

On Friday night, two-time Grammy Award winner Mattea and her husband, songwriter

Jon Vezner, will be part of a black-tie benefit at the Charleston Civic Center to raise money for the institute at West Virginia University named for the late mother of Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va. She battled Alzheimer's disease for nearly 10 years before her death in 1992.

St. Louis Rams head coach

Mike Martz, whose late mother also had Alzheimer's, also will speak at the benefit.

The benefit is the first major fund-raising gala for the research facility that studies Alzheimer's, a disorder that progressively breaks down people's ability to think, speak and go about their daily lives.

## Kwame Jackson axed as Trump pageant judge

QUITO, Ecuadord (AP)— Less than two months after getting fired by Donald Trump on the U.S. reality show "The Apprentice," runner-up Kwame Jackson got the boot again—as a judge for Trump's Miss Universe pageant.

The 80 young women seeking the Miss Universe crown held their last practice session Monday for the beauty pageant, as Indians demonstrated against the event, critics questioned its relevance.

Jackson, the runner-up to the reality show's April 15 final prize—a yearlong, \$250,000 job with the billionaire developer—was disqualified by pageant organizers for waving at beauty queens he bumped into in the lobby of

"Kwame is intelligent, charming and we were really looking forward to him judging on our panel," pageant president Paula Shugart said in a statement made available to The Associated Press. "But his interaction with the delegates, albeit unintentional, is strictly prohibited."

The pageant statement quoted Jackson saying he was "disappointed and disheartened" and "honestly had no idea that (the hotel) was off limits.'

"I was meeting up with some friends who had flown in to support me, when I was recognized by some of the delegates," the 29-year-old Harvard MBA said. "As a natural human response, I extended my hand to greet them."

As the contestants prepared for Tuesday night's contest, some 500 Indian demonstrators marched several blocks from their hotel, protesting against the pageant as well as against President Lucio Gutierrez, who faces growing demands to resign.

Indian women dressed in multilayered skirts and embroidered blouses wore sashes with phony titles like "Miss War" and "Miss Missile." Carrying ears of corns, they shouted against the government for spending millions of dollars on the event instead of providing support for their crops.

The demonstrators screamed insults against Gutierrez, calling him "a liar," "a thief" and "corrupt," and protested against the government's plans to negotiate a free trade agreement with the United States.

His opponents in Congress have demanded that he resign over a corruption scandal involving his closest aide and have threatened to impeach him if he does not. But he has refused, saying there are no grounds under the constitution for his ouster.



American Idol reject William Hung sings "Take Me Out to The Ball Game" during the seventh inning stretch at the Toronto Blue Jays game against the Texas Rangers in Toronto, Sunday May 30, 2004.

# Hung butchers 'Take Me Out to Ball Game'

TORONTO (AP)—William Hung butchered "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" during the seventh-inning stretch of Sunday's matchup between the Toronto Blue Jays and Texas Rangers, much to the delight of 22,225 at SkyDome.

The American Idol reject best known for his hyperactive, tonedeaf rendition of Ricky Martin's "She Bangs," shrugged off a brief smattering of boos and belted out the baseball classic off-key while fans egged him on. Some even joined in.

Hung's presence brought a gaggle of media usually indifferent to baseball to the game, including staff from Rolling Stone magazine. A team official said more media credentials were issued Sunday than on opening day.

The Blue Jays initially tried to bring Hung in opening day, but that conflicted with the release of his debut album, "Inspiration," which is nearing 100,000 copies sold.

"I still am surprised," Hung said before the game. "I can't believe it."

The record deal is certainly testing the limits on the Hong Kong native's 15 minutes of fame. A civil engineering student at the University of California, he's spending most of his time these days touring to promote the album.

# Reports: Roberts to have twins

LOSANGELES (AP)—Oscarwinning actress Julia Roberts is pregnant with twins, according to magazine reports.

People magazine reported Monday night that Roberts' spokeswoman, Marcy Engelman, said the "Pretty Woman" star was due to give birth to twins early next year.

US Weekly said Roberts, 36, has been pregnant for about nine weeks with twins. Star magazine, citing unidentified sources, said the twins were a boy and a girl.

Roberts, who won the best actress Oscar in 2001 for "Erin Brockovich," married cinematographer Daniel Moder, 35, in July 2002 at her home in New Mexico. The twins would be the first children for Roberts, who starred in 1990's "Pretty Woman."

Engelman told People magazine that twins run in Roberts' family, with her great-grandmother and a pair of cousins born as twins.

Julia Roberts is shown at the Academy Awards Feb. 29, 2004, in Los Angeles.



# Indy 500 brings out the celebrities



fornia, he's spending most of his time these days touring to promote the album.

Actors Morgan Freeman, left, and Ashley Judd greet each other before the start of the Indy 500 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Sunday, May 30, 2004, in Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Actor Morgan Freeman drove the pace car. Pop star Jessica Simpson sang the national anthem. Television host David Letterman co-owns the team that had the winning driver, Buddy Rice.

Some of the celebrities at the Indianapolis 500 had local roots. Letterman, former NBC "Today" host Jane Pauley and Rupert Boneham of "Survivor" fame are Indiana natives.

Also attending the race were chef Wolfgang Puck, actors James Garner, Judge Reinhold and Patrick Dempsey, and New York Giants quarterback Jesse Palmer, who recently finished his stint as "The Bachelor."

"It's been wild, been great," Palmer said Sunday. "It's one of the biggest events in sports and now you can see why."

Also representing the sporting world: University of Cincinnati coach Bob Huggins and Cleveland Browns quarterback Kelly Holcomb, a former Indianapolis Colts' quarterback, who attended his seventh race.

## Paul McCartney plays for 30,000 in Madrid Ronstadt bemoans to

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Paul McCartney returned to Madrid for the first time in 15 years and wowed a crowd of 30,000 fans with 33 songs, all but ten of them Beatles' tunes.

McCartney and his band played until well pass midnight Sunday with scores of music-lovers that were unable to get into the Peineta Stadium crowding a nearby slope to catch a glimpse of the 61-year-old rocker and

his spectacular stage show featuring huge TV screens and fireworks.

McCartney, 61, delighted fans by addressing them in Spanish. "I was taught Spanish for a year 50 years ago, when I was 11 at school in Liverpool," he said.

He dedicated songs to the late Beatles John Lennon and George Harrison and drew a huge ovation when he said, "Let's hear it for John."

### Ronstadt bemoans today's music industry

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Linda Ronstadt, whose singing career began in the 1960s, says today's music industry values sex appeal more than talent.

"It puts a huge amount of pressure on kids," who are aspiring performers, she told the Daily News in Monday editions.

"If you are someone like Beyonce who happens to be gorgeous and talented, well great. But there are a lot of people who are not paid attention to because they don't look like a fashion model," the 57-year-old singer said.

Ronstadt, a native of Tucson, Ariz., was a sex symbol herself, with such hit albums as "Heart Like a Wheel" and "Simple Dreams."

She never plays those recordings anymore, though.

"I never go back. I never listen to them," said Ronstadt, who is scheduled to perform at the Beacon Theatre on Tuesday. "Music is a work in progress. On a record, it gets frozen in time, and it's oddly unnatural."

## Family's dysfunction weighs heavily on woman's shoulders

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-year-old woman in need of help. I used to live at my grandmother's house with my younger sisters and my parents. My father hasn't worked since I was born. My mom managed a local flower shop and made good money, but she was fired two years ago after she started using cocaine with Dad and her boss found out.

My grandma and my 19year-old sister take care of my 12- and 14-year-old sisters because our parents are



DearAbby

broke. To make matters worse, my uncle, "Ralph," moved here from Florida last year and now lives at my grandma's. Uncle Ralph has a jail record and is verbally and physically abusive to Grandma and to my sisters' cats and dogs. The police have been called, but they can't do anything unless Grandma says she wants him out. The thing is, she's terrified of him. She told my sister she wishes he would leave, but she's too scared to tell him.

Abby, Uncle Ralph is the reason I moved out. How can I get him out of that house, and how can I get my parents help for their drug problem? Most of my money goes to help out with my sisters. I need a car and I'd like to go back to college, but I can't until this burden is lifted off my shoulders. I suffer anxiety attacks from worrying about this. Please help!

ANXIOUS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DAR ANXIOUS: You may not like this message, but you need to hear it. You are not Wonder Woman, and you have placed far too much responsibility on your own shoulders. You are focusing so hard on other people's problems that you have forgotten to take care of yourself.

Isn't it time that your grandmother and parents took responsibility for themselves? You have already helped them as much as you can—more than anyone can reasonably expect. There's a reason why airline passengers are instructed that in an emergency they must first place the oxygen masks over their own faces, and THEN over the faces of their dependents. It's so they don't all black out at once.

My advice is to contact Al-Anon and learn how to separate other people's problems from your own. Get back in school and get counseling through the student health center. Once you are out of school and established financially, then you will be in a stronger position to help your siblings.

**DEAR ABBY**: I was brutally raped a few months ago by a man I had thought was kind and gentle. Afterward, I learned that he had also been violently abusive to his ex-wife and former girlfriend.

He's in jail for now, but I will have to testify against him in court soon, and I'm scared to death.

Everyone tells me to be brave and speak out, but I just want to put this all behind me. It keeps preying on my mind, and I'm frightened at night when I'm home alone. I'm afraid I'll never feel safe again. I have these nightmares that he escapes and beats me to death. Did I do the wrong thing when I reported him?

FRIGHTENED IN IDAHO

DEAR FRIGHTENED: No, you did the right thing. Permit me to add my voice to the chorus of those urging you to be brave and testify. By standing up for yourself, you will also heal yourself. However, you should also be receiving support from a rape crisis center during this difficult time. And when you go to court, you should have a victim's advocate by your side. Pick up the phone and call (800) 656-4673. It's the toll-free number of the Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network. They will guide you to the help you need.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004 **23** 

## **Pastimes**

#### CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

#### CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY

Justin Jeffre, Sean Astin, Lesley Boone, Sally Jessy Raphael

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Having a crusader attitude will make all the difference in the world this year. Be a little stubborn if you think you are right. Be diverse in all that you do and you will meet the demands being put on you and accomplish your goals. Your numbers are 2, 13, 17, 29, 31, 40



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#### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Push to make others aware of what you are doing and how you believe it will help everyone on some level. If you can sell your ideas to others, you will put yourself in a favorable position. □□□



#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

This is a perfect day to make some much-needed adjustments. Opportunities will manifest themselves in the most unusual places, so don't hesitate to talk about your dreams.



#### **GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*)

Keeping a secret will be of utmost importance today. By disclosing what you are up to, you could blow a deal or your cover. Work by yourself; question your motives. □□□



#### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Do something creative today that can be used to benefit others. The more you do to help make reforms, the better.  $\Box\Box\Box\Box$ 



#### **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

You will be misled if you are too gregarious. Tone down and observe what others are doing. Advancement may be at stake. □□



#### **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You can find an ideal romantic partner if you get out and do things that interest you. Get involved in talks that will stimulate your mind and broaden your perspective about projects you want to pursue.  $\Box \Box \Box \Box \Box$ 



#### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Prepare yourself well so that you can follow through with what's necessary as quickly as possible. Don't be lazy or waste time thinking about what you should be doing.  $\Box\Box\Box$ 



#### **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Partnerships will be a little hard to handle if you don't take precautions and fully prepare. You can get on with your plans and get the praise you deserve.  $\Box\Box\Box$ 



### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your work ethics will pay off, so roll up your shirtsleeves and work alongside others for best results. Your team-player approach will put you in a leadership position. □□□



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You should be developing your ideas today. If you find someone particularly inspiring, spend time discussing your plans together. Love and romance will be on your doorstep.  $\Box\Box\Box\Box$ 



### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Take the initiative to follow what you feel is the best path and refrain from being led astray. Prepare to take a pass on what others are asking of you.  $\Box\Box$ 



### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your involvement in good causes will be rewarded today. You will begin to see the results of a job well done. Someone unusual, but interesting, will want to get to know you better.  $\Box\Box\Box\Box$ 

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are proactive and never take the conventional route. Your outgoing nature always leads to adventure and excitement. You will chase your dreams until you reach your destiny.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com.



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